

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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S E C R E T USNATO 03035

PASS TO DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MPOL, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN PERMREP'S VIEW OF NEW DEFENSE MINISTER

1. GERMAN PERMREP PAULS HAS RETURNED FROM BONN WHERE HE HAD MEETINGS WITH NEW DEFENSE MINISTER APEL. HE BROUGHT BACK UPBEAT IMPRESSION. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, PAULS SAID APEL WAS GETTING INTO HIS JOB QUICKLY AND WAS READILY ABSORBING ALL THE RAMIFICATIONS OF GERMAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. HE FOUND APEL OPEN-MINDED AND PREPARED TO ALTER PRE-CONCEIVED VIEWS WHEN PRESENTED WITH THE FACTS. APEL WAS ALREADY GOOD-HUMOREDLY COMPLAINING OF INTERFERENCE FROM FINANCE MINISTRY AND SAID HE HAD SENT NEW FINANCE MINISTER A MEMORANDUM TO EFFECT THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT TO HAVE FINANCE INTERFERE WITH DEFENSE MATTERS IN THE WAY THE MINISTER'S PREDECESSOR HAD DONE. FINANCE MINISTER'S PREDECESSOR WAS OF COURSE APEL. PAULS ALSO COMMENTED THAT APEL'S PERSONAL AMBITIONS WERE BOUND TO MAKE HIM ANXIOUS TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF HIS NEW MINISTRY REGARDLESS OF ANY PREDILECTION FOR FINANCIAL ISSUES.

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2. PAULS FOLLOWED DEPUTY SACEUR GENERAL SCHMUCKLE IN BRIEFING APEL ON AWACS. PAULS COMMENTED THAT REAL PROBLEM OF AWACS LAY WITH PARLIAMENT, WHICH WAS BALKING AT THE EXPENSE. BENNETT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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